

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 7, 13, 20 and 22 have been amended. Claims 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14 and 21 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 13, 15-20 and 22 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sugimoto et al. (US 5,824,920) (hereinafter "Sugimoto").

Independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 20 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 6, 12, 14 and 21, respectively, and are therefore now believed to be in a condition for allowance. Claims 2 and 8 depend on one of claims 1 and 7, respectively, and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that claims 3-6, 9-12, 14-19, 21 and 22 have been found to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14 and 21 have been cancelled. It is respectfully submitted that claims 4, 10, 15-19 and 22 are allowable in their present form.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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